

In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cover comprising:
a body portion substantially surrounded by an outer edge, the body portion having an opening therein, and the body portion having an upper surface that is concave adjacent substantially the entire outer edge such that a portion of the upper surface adjacent the outer edge is lower than the upper surface that is disposed inwardly of the portion adjacent the outer edge when the cover is positioned horizontally and in an upright orientation; and
a stopper movable between an open position and a closed position, the stopper adapted to close the opening when in the closed position; and
a handle disposed in the body portion;
wherein the stopper causes a substantially air-tight seal between the cover and a container when in the closed position, and allows the cover to be removed from the container when the stopper is in the open position by releasing the air-tight seal; and
wherein the stopper includes a flap having a portion that removably fills the opening.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The cover as claimed in claim 1, the body portion further comprising:
~~an upper surface;~~
a lower surface having an outer periphery adjacent the outer edge; and
a sealing ring mounted on a substantial portion of the outer periphery of the lower surface of the body portion, wherein the sealing ring in combination with the stopper effects the air-tight seal between the cover and the container when the opening is closed by the flap.

4. (Original) The cover as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:
a flange attached to the outer periphery of the lower surface, wherein the flange receives the sealing ring.
5. (Original) The cover as claimed in claim 4, wherein the sealing ring is removable from the flange.
6. (Original) The cover as claimed in claim 3, the flange further comprising:
an arm extending downwardly from the outer periphery of the cover;
a first flange member extending substantially perpendicular from the arm; and
a second flange member provided extending from the arm and substantially parallel to the first flange member forming a groove between the first and second flange members, wherein the groove receives at least a portion of the sealing ring.
7. (Original) The cover as claimed in claim 3, wherein the sealing ring is mounted on the outer periphery of the lower surface using adhesive.
8. (Original) The cover as claimed in claim 3, wherein the sealing ring is mounted on an entire outer periphery of the lower surface.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously Presented) The cover as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
an indentation in the body portion substantially surrounding the handle.
11. (Original) The cover as claimed in claim 10, wherein the handle is set within the indentation and a top surface of the handle is substantially flush with an upper surface of the body portion of the cover.

12. (Previously Presented) The cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the handle is removable from the body portion.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The cover as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
an indentation in the body portion substantially surrounding the handle and stopper.

15. (Original) The cover as claimed in claim 14, wherein the handle and stopper are set within the indentation and top surfaces of the handle and the stopper are substantially flush with an upper surface of the body portion of the cover.

16. (Previously Presented) The cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the handle and stopper are removable from the body portion.

17. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:
a cover having a body portion substantially surrounded by an outer edge; and
a containing portion including a sidewall attached to a base, the sidewall having an inner surface;
wherein the outer edge of the cover is adapted to fit adjacent a portion of the inner surface of the sidewall of the containing portion such that the outer edge of the cover extends only to the inner surface of the sidewall, and wherein a portion of the outer edge of the cover that contacts the containing portion is angled upwardly away from the base when the cover is disposed on the containing portion.

18. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 17, the body portion further comprising:
a top surface;
a bottom surface having an outer periphery adjacent the outer edge; and

a sealing ring mounted on a substantial portion of the outer periphery of the bottom surface of the body portion, wherein the sealing ring effects an air-tight seal between the cover and the containing portion.

19. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:
a ridge provided on the sidewall of the containing portion, wherein the sealing ring is adapted to engage the ridge.
20. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:
a flange attached to the outer periphery of the bottom surface, wherein the flange receives the sealing ring.
21. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 20, wherein the sealing ring is removable from the flange.
22. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 18, wherein the sealing ring is mounted on the outer periphery of the bottom surface using adhesive.
23. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 18, wherein the sealing ring is mounted on the entire outer periphery of the bottom surface.
24. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 18, the flange further comprising:
an arm extending downwardly from the outer periphery of the cover; and
a flange member extending substantially perpendicular from the arm, the sealing ring removably engaged with at least a portion of the flange member.
25. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 24, the flange further comprising:
a second flange member extending from the arm and provided substantially parallel to the first flange member forming a groove between the flange members, wherein the groove removably receives at least a portion of the sealing ring.

26. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 25, wherein the sealing ring is secured to the groove with adhesive.
27. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:
a handle disposed in a top surface of the body portion.
28. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 27, further comprising:
an indentation in the body portion substantially surrounding the handle.
29. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 28, wherein the handle is set within the indentation and a top surface of the handle is substantially flush with the top surface of the body portion of the cover.
30. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:
an opening defined by the body portion of the cover; and
a stopper movable between an open position and a closed position, the stopper adapted to close the opening in the closed position, and expose the opening in the open position;
wherein the stopper causes a substantially air-tight seal between the cover and the containing portion when in the closed position, and allows the cover to be removed from the container when the stopper is in the open position by releasing the air-tight seal.
31. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in claim 30, wherein the stopper includes a flap wherein a portion of the flap removably fills the opening.
32. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 31, the cover further comprising:
a top surface;
a bottom surface having an outer periphery adjacent the outer edge; and
a sealing ring mounted on a substantial portion of the outer periphery of the bottom surface of the body portion,

wherein the sealing ring in combination with the stopper effects the air-tight seal between the cover and the inner surface of the containing portion when the opening is closed by the flap.

33. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 32, further comprising:
a flange attached to the outer periphery of the lower surface, wherein the flange receives the sealing ring.
34. (Original) The container as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:
a ridge provided on the sidewall of the containing portion, wherein the outer edge of the cover is adapted to engage the ridge.
35. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:
a cover having a body portion substantially surrounded by an outer edge, the body portion having an opening therein;
a stopper and handle combination provided on the body portion, the stopper movable between an open position and a closed position, the stopper adapted to close the opening when in the closed position; and
a containing portion including a sidewall attached to a base, the sidewall having a rim and an inner surface, wherein a substantial portion of the inner surface of the rim extends outwardly in a direction having a horizontal component when the containing portion is placed on a horizontal surface;
wherein the outer edge of the cover is adapted to fit against a portion of the inner surface of the sidewall of the containing portion such that the outer edge of the cover extends only to the inner surface of the sidewall, and the stopper is adapted to cause an air-tight seal between the cover and the containing portion when in the closed position, and allows the cover to be removed from the containing portion when the stopper is in the open position by releasing the air-tight seal.

36. (New) A container comprising:

a cover having a body portion substantially surrounded by an outermost edge; and
a containing portion including a sidewall attached to a base, the sidewall having a
ridge below an upper edge of the ridge, wherein
the outermost edge of the cover is adapted to fit against the ridge.

37. (New) The container as claimed in claim 36, wherein the cover further comprises
an inner surface and a sealing ring mounted on the inner surface such that placement of the cover
on the containing portion results in the inner surface of the cover fitting the sealing ridge against
the ridge.